been any surge in imports as a consequence of this step. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs has been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The findings in the Report state that a number of problems that include inadequate credit flow from banks and financial institutions, inadequate infrastructure facilities, low quality standards of products, use of obsolete technology, plant, machinery and equipment, inefficient management techniques, etc. are inhabiting the sector. Based on the findings the major recommendations include a three tier definition for small enterprises, a comprehensive law for the sector including simplification of procedure, continuation of reservation, selective enhancement of investment limit, creation of corpus for infrastructural development and incubation centres, imporving flow of credit, through raising limit of composite loans, various financial and fiscal measures such as raising excise exemption limit and other measurs, schemes for technology upgradation, marketing etc. A number of the recommendations of the Study Group have since been implemented through comprehensive policy package for the SSI Sector announced on 30th August, 2000.

Employment opportunities in Bihar under PMRY

†613. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets laid down to provide evenues for employment in Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana during the last three years; and

(b) the number of educated unemployed youths in the State who have been benefited through the scheme during the said period?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Targets under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), for Bihar, during the last three years 2000-2001, 1999-2000 and 1998-99 were 21900, 21800 and 20500 cases, respectively.

(b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India, the number of beneficiaries sanctioned loans under PMRY, in Bihar, during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000 and 2001 are 10852, 10382 and 10491, respectively.

Deterioration of Small-Scale Industries

†614. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that condition of the small scale industries is being deteriorated despite Government's claim to the contrary;

(b) whether it is also a fact that red-tapism and new economic policy are being held responsible for this condition; and

(c) if so, the details of the action taken by Government to protect the small scale industries from this poor condition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question doesn't arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The Government has announced a comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally. The policy package provides for easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan upto Rs. 25.00 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Dereservation of items from SSI List

615. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.